CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Amended) A water-absorbent resin, which is surface-crosslinked with a surface-crosslinking agent including at least a polyhydric alcohol, wherein the water-absorbent resin before surface-crosslinking is obtained by polymerizing hydrophilic monomers comprising a major proportion of either or both of acrylic acid and its salt (neutralized product), and where the water-absorbent resin has a particle size distribution such that the ratio of particles having particle diameters of smaller than 150 μm is not more than 5 weight %, and exhibits an absorption capacity without a load of not less than 30 g/g,

with the water-absorbent resin being characterized in that: [[the]] a single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm is not less than 30 g/g under a load; the single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm is not less than 30 g/g under a load; the single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is not less than 30 g/g under a load; and the single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is not less than 30 g/g under a load,

wherein the single-layer absorption capacity is measured under the following conditions:

(a) the liquid being absorbed is a synthetic urine (comprising 0.2 weight % of sodium sulfate, 0.2 weight % of potassium chloride, 0.05 weight % of magnesium chloride 6 hydrates, 0.025 weight % of calcium chloride dihydrate, 0.085 weight % of ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.015 weight % of diammonium hydrogen phosphate, and 99.425 weight % of deionized water) at 25 ± 2 °C,

(b) the load applied to the measurement sample during the absorption is 50 g/cm^2 (4.83 kPa),

(c) the amount of the water-absorbent resin as a measurement sample is 0.055 ± 0.005 g, and

(d) the water-absorbent resin as a measurement sample is uniformly spread on the wire net made of stainless steel attached to the bottom of the cylinder having an internal diameter of 60 mm,

wherein the absorption capacity without a load is measured with a sample drained with a centrifuge after immersed into an aqueous sodium chloride solution of 0.9 weight % for 30 minutes.

43. (Amended) A water-absorbent resin, which is surface-crosslinked with a surface-crosslinking agent including at least a polyhydric alcohol, wherein the water-absorbent resin before surface-crosslinking is obtained by polymerizing hydrophilic monomers comprising a major proportion of either or both of acrylic acid and its salt (neutralized product), and where the water-absorbent resin has a particle size distribution such that the ratio of particles having particle diameters of smaller than 150 μm is not more than 5 weight %, and exhibits an absorption capacity without a load of not less than 30 g/g,

with the water-absorbent resin being characterized in that the index of uniform surface-treatment is not less than 0.70,

wherein: index of uniform surface-treatment = (time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load) x (time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load) x (variation between particles of the single-layer absorption

capacity (10 min.) under a load) x (variation between particles of the single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) under a load),

where: time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load = (single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load) / (single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load); time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load = (single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load) / (single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load); variation between particles of the single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) under a load = (single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load)/(single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load): and variation between particles of the single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) under a load = (single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load) / (single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load);

wherein the single-layer absorption capacity is measured under the following conditions:

(a) the liquid being absorbed is a synthetic urine (comprising 0.2 weight % of sodium sulfate, 0.2 weight % of potassium chloride, 0.05 weight % of magnesium chloride 6 hydrates, 0.025 weight % of calcium chloride dihydrate, 0.085 weight % of ammonium dihydrogen phosphate, 0.015 weight % of diammonium hydrogen phosphate, and 99.425 weight % of deionized water) at 25 ± 2 °C,

(b) the load applied to the measurement sample during the absorption is 50 g/cm^2 (4.83 kPa),

(c) the amount of the water-absorbent resin as a measurement sample is 0.055 ± 0.005 g, and

(d) the water-absorbent resin as a measurement sample is uniformly spread on the wire net made of stainless steel attached to the bottom of the cylinder having an internal diameter of 60 mm,

wherein the absorption capacity without a load is measured with a sample drained with a centrifuge after immersed into an aqueous sodium chloride solution of 0.9 weight % for 30 minutes.

Claims 44 and 45 (Cancelled)

46. (New) A water-absorbent resin according to claim 42, having a particle size distribution such that the ratio of parties having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm is in the range of 65 to 85 weight %, and the ratio of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is in the range of 10 to 30 weight %, where the particle size distribution is measured by a classification using a sieve.

47. (New) A water-absorbent resin according to claim 43, having a particle size distribution such that the ratio of parties having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm is in the range of 65 to 85 weight %, and the ratio of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is in the range of 10 to 30 weight %, where the particle size distribution is measured by a classification using a sieve.

48. (New) A water-absorbent resin according to claim 42, having an L value of light index measured with a spectrophotometer of not less than 85, and the a value representing chromaticness index of in the range of -2 to 2 and the b value representing chromaticness index of in the range of 0 to 9.

49. (New) A water-absorbent resin according to claim 43, having an L value of light index measured with a spectrophotometer of not less than 85, and the a value representing chromaticness index of in the range of -2 to 2 and the b value representing chromaticness index of in the range of 0 to 9.

50. (New) A water-absorbent resin according to claim 43, wherein

time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 600 to 300 μm under a load is not less than 0.80,

time variation of single-layer absorption capacity of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm under a load is not less than 0.90,

variation between particles of the single-layer absorption capacity (10 min.) under a load is in the range of 0.90 to 1.10,

variation between particles of the single-layer absorption capacity (60 min.) under a load is not less than 0.90.

51. (New) A sanitary material, comprising a water-absorbent resin and a fiber material,

wherein the water-absorbent resin is according to claim 42, and has a particle size distribution such that the ratio of particles having particles diameters of 600 to 300 μm is in the range of 65 to 85 weight %, and the ratio of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is in the range of 10 to 30 weight %.

52. (New) A sanitary material, comprising a water-absorbent resin and a fiber material,

wherein the water-absorbent resin is according to claim 43, and has a particle size distribution such that the ratio of particles having particles diameters of 600 to 300 μm is in the range of 65 to 85 weight %, and the ratio of particles having particle diameters of 300 to 150 μm is in the range of 10 to 30 weight %.